(iv) For making loans to any sugar factory or unit thereof for production of anhydrous alcohol or ethanol with a view to improving their viability.

(v) Defraying expenditure for the purpose of building up and maintenance of buffer stock of sugar with a view to stabilising price of sugar.

(vi) Defraying expenditure on internal transport and freight charges to the sugar factories on export shipments sugar.

(vii) Loans for potentially viable sick sugar undertaking for rehabilitation and modernization of sugar factory or for sugarcane development scheme.

(viii) Restructuring of loans for potentially viable sick sugar undertaking for facilitating the rehabilitation and modernization of any sugar factory or any unit thereof or the undertaking of any scheme for development of sugarcane.

(ix) Defraying expenditure for the purpose of financial assistance to sugar factories towards interest on loans given in terms of any scheme approved by the Central Government from time to time.

(x) Defraying any other expenditure for the purpose of the Act.

Guidelines for issuance of ration cards

1723. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued guidelines to State Governments on issuance of ration cards;

(b) if so, the details of these guidelines;

(c) whether State Governments have done computerization of the process of issuing ration cards; and

(d) the details of changes brought about by State Governments to prevent misuse of ration cards, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), focused on the poor is operated under joint responsibility of Central and State/UT Governments. The operational responsibilities for identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families based on poverty estimates of Planning Commission, issuance of ration cards to them, and delivery of allocated foodgrains to them through fair price shops are of concerned States and UT Governments.

In order to maintain supplies and securing availability and distribution of essential commodities under TPDS, Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, has been issued by the Government of India on 31st August, 2001. Clause 4 of this Order and paragraph 2 of annexe to it provide guidelines to the State Governments/UT Administrations to issue distinctive ration cards

to Above Poverty Line (APL), BPL and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families and to conduct periodical review and checking of ration cards, to weed out ineligible and bogus ration cards and bogus units in ration cards.

As per existing norms of allocations of foodgrains under TPDS, State/UT Governments have to identify BPL families based on 1993-94 poverty estimates of Planning Commission and population estimates of the Registrar General of India as on 1st March, 2000.

(c) and (d) As reported by States/UTs at the end of October, 2009, 10 State/UT Governments, namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh and Pondicherry have initiated computerization of TPDS operations in which the district and FPS wise allocation of foodgrains are displayed on the website.

State/UT Governments are periodically carrying out review of existing lists of ration cards to eliminate bogus ration cards/units in them.

Instructions were issued in January, 2008 to all States/UT Governments to take action as per law against the families/persons found in possession of bogus or fake ration cards and also against officials found responsible for issuing ration cards to ineligible families/persons.

Further instructions have been issued to all State/UT Governments to carry out an intensive campaign from October, 2009 to December, 2009 to review the existing lists of BPL/AAY families and eliminate ineligible/bogus ration cards.

Since July, 2006 onwards, 17 State/UT Governments have reported detection and deletion of 159.52 lakh fake/bogus/ineligible ration cards as given in Statement.

Statement

Number of bogus/ineligible rations cards deleted by the State/UT Governments with effect from July, 2006 onwards

(Updated on 15.11.2009)

Sl. No.	State	Nos. of bogus/ineligible ration cards deleted eliminated (in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.46
2.	Assam	0.07
3.	Chhattisgarh	3.65
4.	Delhi	16.32
5.	Gujarat	7.83

1	2	3
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.02#
7.	Jharkhand	0.65
8.	Karnataka	6.45
9.	Madhya Pradesh	24.97
10.	Maharashtra	29.45
11.	Meghalaya	0.00*
12.	Orissa	2.50
13.	Sikkim	0.01@
14.	Uttar Pradesh	3.96
15.	Uttarakhand	0.16
16.	West Bengal	52.92 (individual cards)
17.	Lakshadweep	0.00$
	TOTAL	159.42

Actual figures # 1536, *341, @914, $300

Measures to tackle price-rise

1724. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to provide pulses and other essential commodities through Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken to tackle price-rise situation of essential commodities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) At present, Central Government makes available wheat, rice, coarse grains and Kerosene under TPDS to the State/UT Governments for distribution through Fair Price Shops. Pulses imported by the PSUs *viz.* STC, PEC, MMTC and NAFED are supplied to the State Government for distribution through PDS at the subsidy of Rs.10 per kg per ration card holder. In view of the rise in prices of essential commodities witnessed during the recent past, Government has allocated imported edible oils to State/UT Governments. States are free to distribute the edible oils to State/UT Governments. States are free to distribute the edible oil through whatever outlets they decide on.